

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

A method of processing a data stream through a buffer is performed in accordance with a write clock and a read clock. The buffer has a plurality of sequentially numbered storage cells. The method includes the steps of selecting an initial preload value, with the selecting step including determining a product of the maximum frequency offset between the write and read clocks, and a maximum time between arbitrary symbols in the data stream. The storage cells then receive data units in response to a write pointer. Data units are then provided from the storage cells in response to a read pointer.